

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042713

62

ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 OIC-02 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /092 R

DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:HBGLAZER:BASTOKES:BAL

APPROVED BY IO/CMD:PDWYMAN

AID/PPC:CEDWARDS

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R 211926Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS STATE 042713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ESCAP, OCON

SUBJECT: UN REGIONAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BANGKOK, FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 2, 1976

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF POSITION PAPER PREPARED IN DEPARTMENT
AND CONVEYED TO USUN (MOUSKY). WORDING REFLECTS SUGGESTIONS
FROM BOTH AID AND USUN.

PROBLEM:

THE ESCAP MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES IS THE FIRST OF FOUR REGIONAL MEETINGS TO BE
ORGANIZED BY UNDP IN PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE
ON TCDC WHICH IS PROVISIONALLY SCHEDULED TO BE CONVENED IN
1977. UNGA RESOLUTION 3461(XXX) "INVITES THE GOVERNMENTS
OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF EACH REGION, IN VIEW OF THE
PREPARATORY NATURE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL MEET-
INGS...TO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE MEETINGS...AND TO INCLUDE
THE CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERREGIONAL
COOPERATION AND ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TECHNICAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 042713

AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES..."

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES:

THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES, PROVIDED IT IS ACCOMPLISHED IN SUCH A WAY THAT PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES AND THAT THE UNDP EXERCISES A FACILITATIVE AND CATALYTIC ROLE INCLUDING LIMITED SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPORT. THE U.S. PARTICIPATED AS AN ACTIVE OBSERVER ON UNDP'S WORKING GROUP ON TCDC AND GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE DECISIONS REACHED AT THE 18TH (WITH SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS), 19TH, AND 20TH SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL.

THE ESCAP MEETING ON TCDC, AS THE FIRST OF FOUR REGIONAL GATHERINGS PRIOR TO A GLOBAL CONFERENCE, MAY WELL SET THE TONE FOR AND LARGELY INFLUENCE NOT ONLY THE SUCCEEDING MEETINGS BUT THE CONFERENCE TOWARD WHICH THIS PREPARATORY ACTIVITY IS DIRECTED. IT THEREFORE COMMANDS THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. WHICH SEEKS TO PROMOTE ELABORATION OF A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO TCDC WHILE AVOIDING UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENTS AND TRENDS.

UNITED STATES POSITION:

1. THE U.S. HOLDS THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A TECHNIQUE OR MODALITY NOT TO BE VIEWED AS AN UNDERTAKING APART FROM OR IN COMPETITION WITH THE DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF THE U.N.

2. U.S. SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THE 21ST SESSION OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, IS "AN ADDITIONAL MEANS OF MOBILIZING THE UNTAPPED RESOURCES AND CAPACITIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD." THE U.S. WOULD OPPOSE ALL PROPOSALS, DEVICES OR MODIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD DEROGATE FROM THIS INTERPRETATION.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 042713

3. THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT AND ELABORATION BY THE UNDP OF AN EFFECTIVE INFORMATION REFERRAL SYSTEM COVERING TRAINING FACILITIES, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS, CONSULTATIVE AGENCIES, AND SOURCES OF EXPERTISE.

4. THIS REFERRAL SYSTEM MUST DEPEND TO AN IMPORTANT DEGREE ON THE CREATION WITHIN EACH DEVELOPING COUNTRY OF

ADMINISTRATIVE FOCAL POINTS WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH ROSTERS OF EXPERTS AND SUPPLIERS, ARRANGE LEGAL AND FISCAL FACILITATION OF RESOURCE RELEASE AND GENERALLY PROMOTE THE FUNCTIONING OF TCDC.

5. IN IDENTIFYING EXPERTISE WITHIN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE CAPABILITIES AND POTENTIAL OF WOMEN SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL CREDENCE AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF TCDC SHOULD CONSTITUTE A WHOLLY-RESPECTED NORM.

6. THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT NO ARTIFICIAL TARGETS SHOULD BE IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO LDC SOURCES OF EXPERTS, SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT. WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NO USEFUL RESOURCE BE OVERLOOKED REGARDLESS OF ITS ORIGIN, THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL AFFAIRS DEMANDS THAT THE BEST AND MOST ECONOMICAL RESOURCES BE APPLIED TO THE UNDERTAKINGS OF THE UNDP FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE REPORT IN PROGRESS ON UTILIZATION OF LDC RESOURCES BY MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES.

7. IT IS WELL ESTABLISHED THAT THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TCDC TO THE 18TH SESSION OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL CONTAINED FEATURES TO WHICH NOT ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS COULD AGREE. THE U.S. WAS ONE OF SEVERAL SUCH COUNTRIES EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS CONCERNING ELEMENTS OF THIS REPORT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE U.S. SHOULD RESERVE AS HERETOFORE ON ANY DECLARATION, RESOLUTION OR OTHER EXPLICIT STATEMENT WHICH ASSUMES OR IMPLIES UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THIS REPORT OR ITS SUITABILITY IN TOTO AS A BASIS FOR THE SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF TCDC.

8. THE U.S. ENDORSES AN ACTIVE ROLE BY THE REGIONAL
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PAGE 04 STATE 042713

COMMISSIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF TCDC, IN COORDINATION WITH AND UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF UNDP AND WITH EACH OTHER, AND THE COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN A REGION. TO THIS END, COMMISSIONS SHOULD ESTABLISH THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS, WITH APPROPRIATE UNDP ASSISTANCE, FOR REGIONAL PROMOTION OF TCDC AND AS PART OF A LARGER NETWORK. MAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE042713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HBGLAZER:BASTOKES:BAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760066-0729
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760226/aaaaawlh.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN REGIONAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BANGKOK, FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 2, 1976
TAGS: EAID, OCON, TECH, TH, UN, ESCAP
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006